Application No.: 09/944,103 Docket No.: 21994-00028-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A tape cassette comprising:

an upper half and a lower half combined with each other, wherein said tape cassette is utilized for an apparatus that is provided with a light emitting section for detecting a tape end of a magnetic tape;

and a light receiving section for detecting the tape end of the magnetic tape by receiving a detection light beam irradiated by said light emitting section and detects a tape end such that the detection light beam irradiated by said light emitting section reaches said light receiving section in a level of luminous energy more than a predetermined luminous energy level,

wherein at least said upper half is made by a material having optical transparency, and

wherein a hole for a light path is formed on both sides of said tape cassette composed of said upper and lower halves so as to pass the detection light beam irradiated by said light emitting section to said light receiving section, and

further wherein a protrusion is formed on a upper outside of said hole for a light path so as to prevent undesired light other than the detection light beam in said predetermined luminous energy level from reaching said light receiving section.

12. (New) The tape cassette in accordance with claim 1, wherein one surface, which faces toward said lower half and is perpendicular to the side of said upper half, out of a plurality of surfaces constituting said protrusion is roughened.